

which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken later today.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF PROSTATE CANCER

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 211) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the importance of raising public awareness of prostate cancer, and of regular testing and examinations in the fight against prostate cancer.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 211

Whereas nearly 180,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1999, and an estimated 37,000 men will die of the disease;

Whereas prostate cancer is the second most common form of cancer among men and the second leading cause of cancer death among men;

Whereas prostate cancer can often be treated successfully if detected early on, although most symptoms are nonspecific and there are few reliable risk factors;

Whereas education and regular testing and examinations are critical to detecting and treating prostate cancer in a timely manner;

Whereas the American Cancer Society recommends that all men aged 50 and over have annual examinations and tests for prostate cancer, and that African American men and men with family histories of prostate cancer, who are at higher risk for the disease, should consider taking such steps at an earlier age;

Whereas the House of Representatives as an institution, and Members of Congress as individuals, are in unique positions to help raise public awareness about the detection and treatment of prostate cancer and to support the fight against prostate cancer: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) all American men should take an active role in the fight against prostate cancer by all the means that are available to them, including regular testing and medical examinations;

(2) the role played by national and community organizations and health care providers in promoting awareness of the importance of regular examinations and testing for prostate cancer, and in providing related information, support, and access to services, should be recognized and applauded;

(3) the Federal Government has a responsibility to—

(A) endeavor to raise awareness about the importance of the early detection of, and proper treatment for, prostate cancer;

(B) continue to fund research so that the causes of, and improved treatment for, prostate cancer may be discovered; and

(C) continue to consider ways to improve access to, and the quality of, health care services for detecting and treating prostate cancer.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gen-

tleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation under consideration, H. Res. 211, and to insert extraneous material in the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise, of course, in support of H. Res. 211, a resolution to raise public awareness of prostate cancer and convey the importance of regular testing and examinations to fight this terrible disease. I am proud to be an original cosponsor, and certainly it is very fitting that we all pay tribute to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS), who has worked so very hard on this legislation and was able to keep pushing it so we could get it to this particular point.

According to the National Institutes of Health, prostate cancer is the most frequently diagnosed non-skin cancer in American men. The National Cancer Institute reports that over 200,000 new cases of prostate cancer were diagnosed in the United States in 1997 alone. Tragically, approximately 40,000 men will die of the disease this year.

Since testing for early detection of prostate cancer became relatively common, the prostate cancer death rate has declined. However, too many lives are still lost to this disease because it is not detected early enough or because treatment is received too late. It is critical, critical that American men use all available means to fight prostate cancer, including regular testing and medical examinations.

The resolution before us today encourages men to be active in the battle against prostate cancer. It also encourages national and community organizations, along with health care providers, to promote the importance of medical examinations and testing.

In addition, this resolution emphasizes the Federal Government's responsibility to provide the necessary resources to fund research to determine the causes of and treatments for prostate cancer.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Health and Environment of the Committee on Commerce, I have been a strong supporter, as have so very many others, of increasing the Federal Government's commitment to biomedical research. In particular, I have endorsed the proposal to double Federal funding for the NIH over 5 years.

In an effort to provide additional funding for NIH research efforts, I have

introduced H.R. 785, the Biomedical Research Assistance Voluntary Option, or BRAVO, as we call it, Act. My bill would allow taxpayers to designate a portion of any Federal income tax refund to support biomedical research to the National Institutes of Health.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that the war against cancer is far from over. Today, the House of Representatives can play a supportive role in the fight against prostate cancer by increasing public awareness about the importance of early detection and treatment of prostate cancer. I urge all my colleagues to support H. Res. 211.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The resolution we are considering today is important, and we are pleased to cooperate with the majority's request to discharge it from the Committee on Commerce on an expedited basis. We hope and expect that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle will extend the same consideration for issues that we hold important. Our goal must be to work in a timely manner and on a bipartisan basis so that beneficial initiatives can move through this Congress.

One out of ten men will develop prostate cancer in their lifetime. One out of ten. Forty thousand men will die from it each year. Early detection is critical, and raising awareness about the disease is the best way to promote regular testing.

This resolution says we can play a unique role in our districts and through this Congress on the national level also through national exposure to raise public awareness about prostate cancer.

In 1994, I founded the Northeast Ohio Breast and Prostate Cancer Task Force to help organize efforts at the local level to combat these cancers. Last Sunday, at Jacobs Field in Cleveland, I had the honor of presenting an award to the Cleveland Indians' Mike Har- grove and Jim Thome on behalf of the team for their support for prostate cancer research. This award is part of the Association for the Cure of Cancer of the Prostate and Major League Baseball's 1999 Home Run Challenge. During Father's Day Week, June 20 to 25, every home run hit in 60 selected games will raise money directed towards prostate cancer research.

This resolution today, Mr. Speaker, is a statement of the need to do more to fight prostate cancer and to help men who have this illness. But this Congress can and should do much more. We should pass the Patients' Bill of Rights, which would protect prostate cancer patients from arbitrary coverage denials and ensure their access to the right specialists and to clinical trials.